1. (Original) A satellite communications system for distributing information to user terminals located within a plurality of spot beams, the satellite communications system comprising:

a communications satellite in a geosynchronous orbit;

a plurality of hubs each located within a respective spot beam, and adapted to:

route information received from a first user terminal located within a first spot beam via the communications satellite to a second user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams via the communications satellite;

wherein the communications satellite is adapted to:

receive the information according to a first protocol from the first user terminal;

transmit the information according to the first protocol to a first hub located within a selected one of the spot beams;

receive the information according to a second protocol from the first hub; and

transmit the information according to the second protocol to a second user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams.

2. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein each of the spot beams is spatially isolated from the other spot beams.

3. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the first hub is located within the first spot beam.

4. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the first hub located within one of the spot beams other than the first spot beam.

5. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the communications satellite is further adapted to:

transmit the information to the second user terminal at a first frequency; and

transmit the information at a second frequency to a third user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams.

6. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the communications satellite is further adapted to:

transmit the information to the second user terminal at a first polarization; and

transmit the information at a second polarization to a third user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams.

7. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 further comprising a network control center adapted to assign frequencies and polarizations for the information received from the first user terminal and for the information transmitted to the second user terminal.

8. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the first protocol and the second protocol are the same protocol.

9. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the communications satellite further comprises a router adapted to direct the information to user terminals located within a selected one of the spot beams by selecting the frequency or polarization of the information.

10. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 wherein the communications satellite comprises a downlink transmitter power controller to adjust the power level at which the information is transmitted to the second user terminal.

11. (Original) The satellite communications system according to Claim 1 further comprising a wide area network interconnecting a selected subset of the hubs.

12-33. (Cancelled).

34. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 2 wherein the first hub is located within the first spot beam.

35. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 5 wherein the first hub located within one of the spot beams other than the first spot beam.

36. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 34 wherein the communications satellite is further adapted to:

transmit the information to the second user terminal at a first frequency; and

transmit the information at a second frequency to a third user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams.

37. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 34 wherein the communications satellite is further adapted to:

transmit the information to the second user terminal at a first polarization; and

transmit the information at a second polarization to a third user terminal located within a selected one of the spot beams.

38. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 36 further comprising a network control center adapted to assign frequencies and polarizations for the information received from the first user terminal and for the information transmitted to the second user terminal.

39. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 5 wherein the first protocol and the second protocol are the same protocol.

40. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 5 wherein the communications satellite further comprises a router adapted to direct the information to user terminals located within a selected one of the spot beams by selecting the frequency or polarization of the information.

41. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 5 wherein the communications satellite comprises a downlink transmitter power controller to adjust the power level at which the information is transmitted to the second user terminal.

42. (New) The satellite communications system according to Claim 5 further comprising a wide area network interconnecting a selected subset of the hubs.

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